



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mark Espy et al.

Art Unit : 1634

Serial No. : 09/945,203

Examiner : Sakelaris, S.

Filed : August 31, 2001

Title : DETECTION OF VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS

**MAIL STOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action mailed December 23, 2003, please amend the application as indicated on the following pages.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit

February 17, 2004

Signature

Judith Witzel

Judith Witzel

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate